

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 3, replace the paragraph beginning on line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

--The invention is based on the knowledge that the primary energy storage ~~capacitance~~ capacitance 3 should be designed to be as small as possible. The necessary supply voltage VCC is not available for many applications. However, a minimum value is necessary for this purpose, in order to ensure the desired dynamic response at the output (+V). Generally, only a supply voltage of 12 V or a maximum of 42 volts is available for operation of piezo injection valves. However, a supply voltage VCC of more than 70 volts is required for operation of a power output stage of this type. The input is clocked by an additional switch 20, which means that there is no need for an additional DC/DC converter.--

Page 4, replace the paragraph beginning on line 23 and bridging pages 4 and 5 with the following amended paragraph:

--Figure 2, the prior art, comprises a converter circuit with a power supply connection 1, which is followed by a filter inductance 2. At its end that is remote from the power supply connection 1, the filter inductance 2 is connected to a primary energy storage capacitance 3, for example to a capacitor, and to a secondary energy storage capacitance 4, for example to a piezo actuator. The piezo actuators have a stack of piezo electric material 6, which is in each case embedded between

electrodes 5 and whose extent changes when a greater voltage is applied. For the sake of simplicity, the figures show only a single layer of the piezo electric material with the associated electrodes 5. An energy storage inductance 8 is connected to the node point 17 between the primary energy storage capacitance 3 and the secondary energy storage capacitance 4, and its end which is remote from the node point 10 is connected to ground 9. The energy source inductance 8 may be an air-cored coil. Finally, a line 11 which leads to a primary switching element 12 branches off from a line 10 which connects the filter inductance 2 to the primary energy storage capacitance 3. That end of the primary switching element 12 which is remote from the line 10 is likewise connected to ground 9. Furthermore, the primary switching element 12 is bridged by a diode 13 which is reverse-biased when a supply voltage VCC is applied to the power supply connection 1. A secondary switching element 14 is arranged in series with the secondary energy storage capacitance 4, is likewise connected to ground 9, and is bridged by a diode 15. In this case, the diode 15 is forward-biased when a supply voltage VCC is applied to the power supply connection 1.--

Page 5, replace the paragraph beginning on line 25 and bridging pages 5 and 6 with the following amended paragraph:

--As the primary switching element 12 is closed, the node point 16 is connected to ground potential. The potential at the node point 17 thus changes to -VCC, so that a current  $I_L$

flows through the energy storage inductance 8 via the energy storage capacitance [[8]] 3, the primary energy storage capacitance 3 and the primary switching element 12. Whilst the primary switching element 12 has been opened, the energy storage inductance 8 maintains the current  $I_L$  and in consequence charges the secondary energy storage capacitance 4. The current  $I_L$  in this case flows via the secondary energy storage capacitance 4 and the diode 15. The secondary energy storage capacitance 4 is now charged, with the electrode on the ground side, the electrode 5, being at a negative potential, which is below the ground potential. The diode 15 thus prevents the secondary energy storage capacitance 4 from being discharged.--

Page 9, replace the paragraph beginning on line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

--The addition of a diode 19 and a switch 20, as shown in figure [[4]] 1, with a power output stage as shown in figure 2 thus allows the primary energy storage capacitance 3 to be bridged briefly, which on the one hand allows the voltage on the primary energy storage capacitance 3 to be varied, and on the other hand allows the maximum current through the filter inductance 2 to be limited.--